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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar says he remains hopeful that situation in Yugoslavia will be peacefully resolved.

- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees calls on international community to make 1992 "year for voluntary repatriation".

- World Food Day, to be observed tomorrow, will focus this year on "trees for life".

- Italy contributes $31.6 million to United Nations Drug Control Programme.

- Draft resolution on security measures for small States introduced in Special Political Committee.

- Calls for greater transparency in international arms transfers and a speedy completion of chemical weapons Treaty in 1992 are heard in the Political and Security Committee.

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Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar said today that he is still hopeful that a peaceful solution will be found to the situation in Yugoslavia. The Secretary-General made the remarks as he entered United Nations Headquarters this morning, in response to questions from reporters.

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar said negotiations were continuing with the full involvement of the European Economic Community, adding that he hoped for coordinated effort between the Soviet Union and the European Economic Community (EEC) to bring about a settlement.

Meanwhile, a United Nations Spokesman said today that former United States Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, who is serving as the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy on Yugoslavia, met last night in Bonn with German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who is also Chairman of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), to discuss the

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situation in Yugoslavia. Mr. Vance is gathering information for a report to the Security Council. He is expected to arrive in Belgrade today to continue his mission, the Spokesman said.

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United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Mrs. Sadako Ogata, told a Round Table of International Journalists at United Nations Headquarters this morning that the question of population movement was probably the most important component in the concept of a new world order.

Opening the roundtable's debate on Peace, International Humanitarian Law and Humanitarian Issues, she called on the international community to make the year 1992 "the year for voluntary repatriation", as the prospects in that area were "brighter than ever". She cited the recent agreement between the UNHCR and the South African Government on the repatriation of political refugees, and added that a UNHCR mission would go to that area by the end of the month to start the process.

Speaking about the current population of 17 million refugees, displaced persons and asylum seekers around the world, she said their number was on the rise. The causes for the rise were complex, but main events such as wars, persecutions, conflicts, and particularly poverty, were forcing millions, often in the poorest parts of the world, to cross their countries' borders. She also cited countries' mismanagement of their economies, as in Albania, as motivation for population movements.

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Italy has contributed some $31.6 million to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to enhance the Programme's technical cooperation activities in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America.

Italy's contribution, announced on 10 October, confirms the priority given by the Italian Government to international action, under the aegis of the Drug Control Programme, against the scourge of illicit drug trafficking and abuse. Over the past few years, Italy has become the main donor country to United Nations drug control activities.

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World Food Day, with the theme this year: "Trees for Life", will be observed tomorrow, Wednesday 16 October, by some 140 nations with ceremonies recognizing the vital role that trees play in every part of the globe.

In a statement to mark the occasion, FAO Director-General Edouard Saouma said trees were essential to human life. "Since the beginning of history", he said, "they have provided food, shade, shelter, fuel, transport, medicine and work. They conserve soil and water and counter global warming". He added that "now, with the world's population expected to reach 8 billion by the year

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2025, it is all the more vital that we recognize the role of trees by dedicating ourselves to fighting deforestation."

The Day will be observed at United Nations Headquarters on Friday, 18 October in the Economic and Social Chamber.

World Food Day, established by FAO's biennial conference in 1979, has been observed annually since 1981, on 16 October, the anniversary of the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Its purpose is to increase awareness of the problems of hunger, malnutrition and poverty and to stimulate action to feed the world.

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A draft resolution introduced this morning in the Special Political Committee would have the General Assembly urge the Secretary-General to continue to monitor the security situation of small States and to consider bringing any threats to the Security Council. The 50-Power text, introduced by the representative of the Maldives, would also have the Assembly request that the Secretary-General continue his consultations on the matter with Council members and other interested Governments.

The Special Political Committee is to meet again on Thursday, 17 October, to take action on the draft resolution.

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The General Assembly's Political and Security Committee has begun its debate on disarmament issues. Speakers have called for increased transparency in the transfer of conventional weapons and military technology, and a speedy conclusion to the negotiations on an international convention that would prohibit the use, manufacture and stockpiling of chemical weapons. Other topics discussed were nuclear non-proliferation and a comprehensive nuclear test ban.

In his opening statement yesterday, the Chairman of the Committee, Robert Mroziewicz (Poland), welcomed the recent disarmament initiatives of Presidents Bush and Gorbachev. However, those by themselves were not enough, he said. Disarmament should become a truly universal process, incorporating the nuclear arms of other States as well.

Today the representative of Venezuela, in his capacity as President of the Conference on Disarmament, said the process of negotiations under way on a draft convention banning chemical weapons had been given an impetus by the announcement of the United States, earlier this spring, of its intention to discontinue the use of chemical weapons under any circumstance and to destroy its stocks of chemical weapons over the next 10 years. Although obstacles still existed on such issues as verification, he hoped the convention would be ready and open for signature by 1992.

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Before today's debate, the Committee was addressed by Yasushi Akashi, Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs. He said the international community had to espouse a multi-dimensional approach to peace and security in which the military aspect would not dominate but would be considered in relation to other priorities, such as development, welfare, environment and the protection of human rights.

Before beginning substantive debate yesterday, the Committee paid tribute to the memory of Ambassador Alfonso Garcia Robles of Mexico, who died recently. Known as the "Father of Disarmament", he was the architect of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, the first Treaty to establish a nuclear-weapons-free zone in a populated region of the world. He was also the recipient of the 1982 Nobel Peace Prize.

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